

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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SECURITY INFORMATION

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1. The number of Soviet citizens in Albania has increased considerably during recent months. These include working men and women and chauffeurs, as well as technicians. The technicians are employed in many of the activities of the country including sanitation inspection. In fact, it is known that the sanitation inspectors have the authority to close down those facilities which do not comply with their orders. Many of the Soviet element have brought their families. Among this group no particular restlessness was noted following the death of Stalin, nor were there any hasty departures.
2. Following the death of Stalin emergency measures were taken by the Government in order to maintain law and order and protect the frontiers. Bridges and roads were guarded and anti-tank and heavy automatic weapons were set up in tactical positions. No signs of restlessness were visible on the part of the population itself.
3. During the first part of the year the Albanian press announced with satisfaction that Pravda had carried an article written by Enver Hoxha. The Albanian Communist Party paper also made every effort to reassure the USSR of Albanian fidelity. In some cases, however, a certain condescension toward the USSR seemed evident, and it almost appeared that the reassurance of fidelity had been requested.
4. During the first part of the year many trade and cultural agreements have been signed with other Communist countries. These included trade and cultural agreements for 1953 with Rumania, Poland, and Hungary as well as trade

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agreements with East Germany and Czechoslovakia for the same period. Relations with the other satellite countries continued to be very friendly and hundreds of Party members have been leaving for the USSR and satellites to take advanced technical courses in mining, agriculture, forestry, building construction, and similar sciences.

5. Propaganda against the Western countries depicting them as organizers of another world war of aggression continued. The Balkan Pact also received the usual amount of vituperation. During this period violent attacks were made on Yugoslavia usually based on accusation of frontier violations and the sending of diversionists and informants into Albania. The Government reported the capture of a number of spies and informants coming from [redacted]

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[redacted] Yugoslavia. The Government claimed that it had eliminated or captured about 50 persons in armed encounters.

6. Some concern among the non-Communist population has been noticed due to a fear that Tito and Western interests intend to use Albania as a pawn in Mediterranean politics. During this time a press campaign for the "safeguard of state secrets" was emphasized. This event was interpreted in some quarters as preparation for a very important trial. [redacted]

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